

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 345

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to commend Dr. Juanita Sims Doty for her honorable and astute service to the people of Jackson, Mississippi and this country.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Juanita Sims Doty is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as an academician, an educator, a civil and human rights advocate, an entrepreneur, and a business leader, Dr. Juanita Doty has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, having earned advanced degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and a doctorate in early childhood education from Jackson State University in 1985, Dr. Doty went on to become recognized as a leader in the fields of education and speech-language pathology; her work included serving as a lecturer, clinical supervisor, associate professor, and director of the Speech and Hearing Center at Jackson State University; and

WHEREAS, she has received numerous awards and commendations for her outstanding professional talents, including being honored as a seven-time recipient of Jackson State University's Spotlight on Scholars in the School of Liberal Arts; she has also received a variety of grants to assist students and professionals in her discipline and has been published in several academic and educational journals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Doty co-hosts, with the former first lady of Mississippi Ms. Patricia Fordice, the highly successful statewide television program, *Woman to Woman*, and is frequently asked to keynote at conferences and symposiums; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Doty's dedication to her native Mississippi is clearly evident by her many volunteer efforts within that State, including serving on the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau, as Chair of the St. Dominic Community Health Services Board of Directors, and on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Head Start Association; on the national level, she has served on the prestigious Board of Directors of the Washington, D.C.-based Corporation for National and Community Service, having been nominated by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Congress to serve on this Board; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Juanita Doty has also served on the Board of Governors of the Josephson Institute of Ethics, and was invited to participate in the 2002 Martin Luther King proclamation White House signing, the D.C. Women's Leadership Summit, and the African-American Leadership Summit held in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, after serving as the National Program Chair of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA) from 2002 to 2006, she was named the 23rd Southeastern Regional Director of this noble organization in July of 2006; she also served as the 2006 AKA National Founders Day Chairman and was instrumental in assisting the sorority to obtain a 1.5 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and developing partnerships with Merrill Lynch and the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health; and

WHEREAS, for her distinguished contributions to AKA, Dr. Juanita Doty received the President's Spirit Award at the 2006 National Convention in Detroit; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Doty is the National Program Chairman of Beta Delta Omega and serves on its National Finance Committee, having previously served in a variety of local, regional, and international leadership positions within that organization; while she held the position of President of the Jackson, Mississippi chapter of Beta Delta Omega, the organization received a \$20,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is the largest contribution ever received by that chapter; and

WHEREAS, Beta Delta Omega Chapter members selected her as Soror of the Year for 1992 and 2001; she also received the Southeastern Region Reva Allman Name That Soror Award for 1992 and 2001, and the Regional Vanessa Rogers Long Humanitarian Award in 2004; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Dr. Doty will receive the Woman of Distinction award in October of 2007 from the City of Madison Chamber of Commerce; she also received the 2004 Ambassador for Peace Award presented by the Interreligious and International Peace Council of Washington, D.C., was named a 2004 Role Model for the 8,000 Middle School GEAR-UP students of Mississippi, received commendations from the Alabama State Legislature in 2005 and 2006 for her work as AKA National Program Chairman, and was presented in 2006 with the John Dixon Award by the Jackson Branch of the NAACP for her efforts in starting an after-school mentoring program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Doty is a devout and active member of Anderson United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, her remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Juanita Doty is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Dr. Juanita Sims Doty for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Mississippi and this country as a dedicated public servant and consummate professional, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.